human somatic cell into the human egg.

Now, there are some people who have been approaching me saying why are we having this debate now? Well, there is a company in this country that has already harvested eggs from women. They want to start creating clones. So the issue is here now. If we are going to put a stop to this, the House, I think, needs to speak and the other body needs to take this issue up as well.

Additionally, this is a women's health issue. There was one article published, I believe in the New England Journal. The way they harvest these eggs is they give women a drug called Pergonal that causes super-ovulation. Then they have to anesthetize them to harvest the eggs. They typically use coeds. It is a class issue, who is going to volunteer for this procedure? Poor women?

Let me tell Members what: The study showed that women who were exposed to this drug have a slightly higher incidence of ovarian cancer. So this is not a trivial issue, in my opinion. It is a women's health issue. I believe the rule that has been crafted is a very fair rule. It will provide for plenty of debate.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 8½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH).

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, there are two bills before us today, effectively, the Weldon bill and then the Greenwood bill, that I am an original sponsor with.

Let us be very, very clear to each other and to the American people. Both of those bills absolutely totally ban human cloning. I am going to say that again so there is no debate on that. They absolutely, totally ban human cloning. There is unanimity, I think, in this Congress, in the American public, about that. There are some extreme, extreme groups that are distinct minorities, but I do not believe there will be one Member who will stand up here and say we should do it.

We should not do it, for both ethical and practical reasons. Before Dolly the Sheep was created, and I am not going to talk about all the ethical reasons. I will talk for a second about the practical reasons. And there are very serious ethical reasons against it. But before Dolly the Sheep was created, 270 sheep died; and Dolly is severely handicapped. I do not think any of us can even contemplate that in terms of the human condition.

Let us talk about what this debate is really about. It is not about human cloning. We are all against human cloning. What it is about is the Weldon bill further bans somatic cell nuclear transfer. I am going to say that term again, because that is a term that all the Members who are going to vote in this Chamber and, in fact, in a sense all of the American people at some point are going to have to understand that term.

I think all of my colleagues now understand the term embryonic stem cells, and I think the vast majority of Americans understand the term embryonic stem cells. In fact the majority of Members, in fact, the debate about stem cell research is over. A majority of this Congress, a majority of the other body, both support embryonic stem cell research, and a vast majority of the American people across polling data, 75, 80 percent consistently of the American people, support embryonic stem cell research.

They do it and that breaks up into every sub-group of our population. In terms of Catholics, the number is about 75–80 percent. People who identify themselves as Evangelical Christians, 75–80 percent support embryonic stem cell research.

□ 1330

But what this Weldon bill tries to ban is somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Now, I really hate doing this to my colleagues and this is really one of the reasons why we ought to defeat this rule today, but I have to do a little bit of layman's science. This is a chart, and I will make it available for Members, that actually shows what somatic cell nuclear transfer does.

Most of us understand that by any definition, an embryo is created when an egg and a sperm join with the potentiality of a unique human being. That is not what this procedure is about. I am going to say these things again, because for most of my colleagues they have not heard this before, and this is somewhat of a science lesson.

A normal embryo, what we think of as an embryo, is created by an egg and a sperm joining with the potentiality of a unique human being.

Mr. Speaker, that is not what this bill attempts to ban. What it bans is somatic cell nuclear transfer. Again, as the chart shows, one takes an egg, an unfertilized egg, an egg, and one then takes out the chromosomes from that egg and then, literally, in the trillions of cells in a body and, in other species, they take it out. Obviously, in the human species, it is the female, of the literally trillions of cells that exist in the human body, they take out one of those cells and take out the 46 chromosomes out of one of those cells and then put it into an egg.

At that point, why are they doing that? Let us talk about that a little bit. This is part and parcel, this debate really is totally intertwined.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) said this is not about stem cell research. It is about stem cell research because, let us talk about what is going on.

Stem cell research, one of the reasons why the American people have effectively said they want embryonic stem cell research is because they understand the debate. They understand the debate at several levels.

At the first level they understand that in in vitro fertilization embryos are created that literally get thrown away. We have a choice. We can use those for research that literally has the ability to cure the most horrific diseases humankind has ever seen, whether that is paralysis, whether that is Alzheimer's, or any number of diseases.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEUTSCH. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman, does it trouble him that with all of the difficulty he is having trying to explain what this is about, that our colleagues are going to be coming down here pretty soon and voting on it, and it will affect everybody in the United States.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentlewoman 100 percent, which is one of the reasons to defeat this rule. In my 9 years in this Chamber, this is the least informed collectively that the 435 Members of this body have ever been on any issue, and in many ways, it is as important as any issue we face.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is frightening.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, why is this about stem cell research? As I said, what the American people have said, and I was talking about in vitro fertilization, that we have the ability to take these embryos and do research on them to literally cure disease, and the research is there. This past week, stem cells were inserted into a primate's spine and a primate that previously had been unable to move was able to move.

Just today, in today's Wall Street Journal, there is a report on research of stem cells actually being able to create insulin cells. It is in today's Wall Street Journal. This stuff is happening. Diseases that had existed in the past, polio, other diseases have been cured. We are getting there. We literally can. If we talk to the patients' groups, if we listen to what Nancy Reagan is saying, if we listen to the families, there are literally tens of millions.

I will move this next chart over here just to show my colleagues. This is the number of people in America that we are talking about. We are not talking about millions, we are talking about tens of millions of people who are personally affected by these diseases, and if we put their families in, we are talking about literally maybe 100 million people in this country who are affected by these diseases.

Now again, let us talk specifically about: how does this intertwine with stem cell research? It is very similar to the issue of organ transplants. If we put an organ into someone's body, it will be rejected. There are antirejection drugs which scientifically do not apply to stem cells.

The best way to be able to actually maybe get a therapeutic use out of this research, actually cure cancer, cure Parkinson's, cure Alzheimer's, cure juvenile diabetes, the actual way to do that is to develop research to develop a